

(e) the steps proposed to enable NHAI to welcome constructive criticism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) National Highways Authority of India has not empanelled any Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) NHAI welcomes constructive criticism of all stake holders and ideas on road safety from various sections of society. The same may be considered for adoption on their merits and feasibility as per safety guidelines for highways.

Connecting NH with Kolkata Port

968. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1560 given in Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from consultant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per report received from consultant, the project for connecting NH-34 with Kolkata Port is not viable on Build Operate Transfer (Toll) basis even with maximum permissible grant of 40 per cent.

Renewal of driving license

969. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to legal discord in Section 14(2) of the Motor Vehicles act 1988, persons obtaining the

driving license at the age of 29 get the maximum validity of 20 years and at the age of 49 their driving licenses can be reviewed only for one year and again they have to run to the transport office and face the trouble to get their driving licenses renewed at the age of 50;

(b) whether Government are considering to modify the rules to avoid this hardship;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) Section 14(2)(b) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, applicable in respect of driving licence other than transport vehicles provides that the driving licence, either originally issued or renewed shall be effective for a period of 20 years or until the date on which such person attains the age of 50 years, whichever is earlier. Further, if a person attains the age of 50 years on the date of issue or as the case may be, renewal thereof, shall be effective for a period of 5 years from the date of such issue or renewal.

The implementation of provision of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 made thereunder, is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. It is correct that if a person of 49 years of age approaches State transport Authority, renewal of driving licence shall be for one year.

Amendment of provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 made thereunder is a continuous ongoing process. Anomalies on coming to notice are dealt in consultation with the stakeholders and various State Governments.

Speeding up construction of NHs in Uttaranchal

970. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to speed up construction of Highways in backward, hilly and remote areas of Uttaranchal in respect of projects